J. Banks

On the use of the Muriate of Gold in various diseases

22 Nov 1824 7.
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W. E. H
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About 15 years ago Dr. Christien of Montpelier introduced some preparations of Gold to the notice of the profession as substitutes for the use of mercurial remedies in the different forms of syphilis. Considerable attention was afterwards paid to them both in Europe and this country, especially in New York, where several eminent practitioners recommended them in public practice. But, as deserves to be the case with most other novelties, these articles speedily fell into disepute, although they had been eulogized by some writers as equally efficacious with mercury, at the same time they were said to be free from its most inconvenient effects.

It is difficult to say what was the real cause of this almost total abandonment of so valuable a remedy. Perhaps it may be attributed to the fact that Dr. Christien's pretensions were formally discountenanced by a committee appointed by one of the Parisian Societies for the purpose of investigating them. Som influence may also be

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ascribed to a circumstance which very commonly operates in impairing the credit of remedial agents, — an indiscriminate application of them to cases of various kinds attended with opposite conditions of the general system. But notwithstanding these difficulties Gold has not been suffered to languish in complete obscurity. It has found a champion in Dr. Neil of Paris, who not only defends Dr. Chretien but accuses his judges of partiality and prejudice. The same recent author has also extended the use of this metal to various other diseases with which syphilis can claim no affinity. In Germany where his work has been translated from the original French, much attention appears to have been paid to its suggestions and our remedy has been praised there for its powers against scrophula, the unpleasant local affections resulting from the abuse of mercury, and some of the most obstinate as well as unmanageable varieties of cutaneous diseases. In this City it

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has been much employed during the last 18 months in similar cases; and from the effects which it has generally produced some respectable practitioners have been inclined to consider it as the efficient ingredient in the celebrated Panacea of of Mr. Swain.

There are three different preparations of this substance which have been thus employed; the first of which is gold in its reguline or metallic state finely divided, the second that of an Oxide, and the third of the Muriate, or triple-muriate as it may be called from the circumstance that an alkaline basis is united to it in combination with with the acids. The last of these has been used in the way of friction over the gums, by which means it is said to have the power of affecting the constitution as powerfully as when internally administered. The first and second preparations have been generally introduced into the stomach either in the form of a bolus or mixture - The

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latter method of administering the remedy in all its forms appears to be attended with the most advantages, both because the digestive organs offer a more immediate admission into the circulation and at the same time that impressions made upon them are more directly and powerfully operative upon the whole sentient system. Provided however the constitution can become fairly affected it is probable that no great importance will be attached to the channel through which the medicine has found admission - still as a much less quantity will be required to produce any given effect when it is internally exhibited; and as the remedy is one of no inconsiderable value in a pecuniary point of view, the method which I have preferred will be likely to obtain the highest approbation. As to the comparative value of each of the three forms individually considered - I can only decide on general principles. All the experimental knowledge which I have of Gold

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as a remedy has been derived from the triple muriate alone; nevertheless I cannot avoid forming an opinion from the analogies which may be traced between these and the various other metallic preparations. As the salts of all the other metals are invariably found to be more active than either the oxides or the regulline bases of them, so we may conclude in regard to the preparations of Gold that the muriate is the most efficient and therefore the most valuable which can be adopted.

Although Dr. Chrestien deserves the credit of having introduced the preparations of Gold which I have here commented on, it ought not to be concealed that some of the most ancient surgeons in England were in the habit of using compounds into which this metal entered as as an ingredient. The "Aurum vitæ" as well as the "Aurum potabile" is spoken of by Salmon as a remedy of great powers. Still it is

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[illegible] rather he does not [illegible] them as [illegible] words rather than as [illegible] of an [illegible] which he had observed that gold particularly [illegible]. [illegible] is not [illegible] of his [illegible] as [illegible] to do, [illegible] articles of dress part [illegible] in [illegible] with each other, and as [illegible] then but let the [illegible] be [illegible] with a [illegible] accumulated [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible] which must take place among the heterogeneous materials of his alexi-pharmic compounds. Quicksilver, gold, nitric acid, opile, nitre &c &c mixed with each other without or regard to the [illegible] in which found among them. But I will [illegible] no [illegible] for the manufacture and use of his "Harmonic Tête" to give some idea of his knowledge of our remedy; they are as follows.

℞ Auri purissimi folia tenuissima unam, Aqua [illegible] quantum mixta et in lapide cuprea [illegible] ℞ Argenti vivi purissimi

[illegible] de spiritu. ubi unciam dederint [illegible] argentum; [illegible] cum [illegible] et [illegible] ulterius destillant ad [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] igneo, ut spiritus corrosivi decedant, cum faciunt in calce in fundo remanente: hanc cavernam [illegible], et cum [illegible] cum figulo, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] tela. Alii dicunt [illegible] [illegible] primi [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] hoc [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ad [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] post [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in pulverem [illegible], instar [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] opus, [illegible] ex aqua, [illegible] et [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]; [illegible] [illegible] ad opus perfectum [illegible] [illegible]: [illegible] habebis. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]." It is evident from the [illegible] of these directions that he could have had no precise idea of the manner in which the royal metal was

combined with the other ingredients; and of course he must have been ignorant of the influence which it exerted upon the animal system. But the nitric and the muriatic acids, were separated by the mode of preparation. The distillation separated the Aqua Regia and the spirit nitri, and the calcination expelled the quicksilver. The only ingredient which remained must therefore have been an oxide of Gold — of which circumstance he was certainly not aware.

Indeed the whole preparation was intended for one of those fortuitous unions of heterogeneous materials which the physicians of that period were so fond of prescribing, for the purpose of neutralizing and expelling the various noxious causes of their pathologies. The gold was, no doubt, added on the same principle that the alchemists used it, for the purpose of transmuting and assimilating the other ingredients to its own regal nature. It was, however, alone.

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in the disease for which it was exhibited, if we can believe the author in question. He says, to translate his words "it operates in an extraordinary manner in dropsy, [illegible] Gout, Vague Pains, Rheumatism, Cramp, Epilepsy & Epileptic Fits, Jaundice, Leprosy; it purifies the blood and nourishes the marrow of the bones and radically cures both all moving matter out of the human body. It is a famous medicine and deserves to the greatest right to be called a Panacea: it is a singular remedy in all deplorable diseases arising from the putrefaction of the humours because it expels or drives out all poisonous and vicious humours: it kills worms and heals all internal ulcers; purges both by vomit and stool and in some what too large a dose causes violent vomiting if often repeated. Dose, gr. iij to [illegible] in some suitable proper to the disease."

From the circumstances that salivation is here mentioned as resulting from the

in use of this alchemical preparation, it might be conceded that its effect was derived from some of the mercury which remained after an imperfect calcination. But the other preparations of gold, in which not the slightest trace of mercury is combined, have been found in the hands of Mr Brande and others to possess the power of affecting the mind. It is more than probable, therefore, that the virtues which Paracelsus claimed for his "Aurum Potabile" whether real or imaginary were derived from the gold that was actually present.

Having made these general observations I proceed now to relate what particular knowledge I have derived from my own observation respecting the use of gold as a remedy. The order which I shall adopt will be to state 1st the nature of the patient's hopes and fears, 2nd the effects produced, 3rd the effects produced from other observations, and 4th a concise history of the

[illegible] otherwise have [illegible] be noticed.

1st Respecting the mode of preparation I [illegible] state the process [illegible], in accor--dance [illegible] of the [illegible] for the [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] parts of [illegible] [illegible] with [illegible] the [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible] it by [illegible] [illegible] is to be done [illegible] a [illegible] days [illegible] and afterwards [illegible] [illegible] too high, the salt is decomposed; [illegible] of the [illegible] mixed with [illegible] and deliberate [illegible] of [illegible].

2nd As to the proper method of administering the preparation it is somewhat difficult to [illegible]

a positive opinion. I believe it is actually of late Dr. Brodie's recommendation to combine with the preparation of bleach and charcoal with powdered bark. But in the case of gold by absorption the acid or base, it has since been recommended by Dr. Pepys to administer it in a solution with pure distilled water. The last mentioned writer concurs that every vegetable and animal substance has the power of recovering gold from other its preparations, and he therefore condemned every other form than the one I have mentioned. But however correct he may be in regard to the influence of charcoal and some other substances, I do not conceive that there is much reason to fear that any important change can result from the combination of the vegetable extract with the remedy under consideration. At least I have not found any cause to believe that such

[illegible] in the form of [illegible] which is known in the [illegible] under the name of the [illegible] of gold. The article to which I allude is the extract of Cocculus, or [illegible] Indicus, the Common Indian [illegible]. The power of this substance is known with some 1/8th to 1/4th of a grain of the tropia [illegible] of gold in the form of a pill, a dose [illegible] to produce a powerful effect [illegible] have been expected from the use of [illegible] under the same circumstances. By its narcotic power the cocculus allays the irritation which the action of gold is calculated to excite upon the nervous and [illegible]-terial systems; while at the same time the mercurial impression is allowed to extend more generally through the solid parts and to produce much more durable effects. Indeed [illegible] narcotic extracts, but more especially the one under consideration, are found

[illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible]
[illegible] with mercury with special [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] and [illegible] for the [illegible] of chronic diseases
But in addition to this there is also another
point of view in which the use of iodide
in combination with gold may be regarded.
It has been satisfactorily proved that this
iodide possesses an increased [illegible] power
counteracting morbid conditions of the
body when administered by itself. Deposition
or lodgement of the glands and various inco-
-ment albums are accompanied, caused by its
action upon the system. What is more to
the purpose however in regard to this point
the experience of able practitioners has been
that the combination of the two remedies in
question does actually promote the action
which is necessary for the eradication of constitutional diseases. Corrosive sublimate and
Cicuta have long been considered as an Offi-
-cinal

[illegible] poured [illegible] the [illegible] which [illegible] drawn from. These may [illegible] expelled, from the accumulation of [illegible] [illegible] forming [illegible].

[illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] of pus that is [illegible] in the [illegible]. [illegible] in dropsy [illegible] to the [illegible] of [illegible] eight [illegible] of the [illegible]. Although [illegible] [illegible] 14 [illegible] of [illegible] will be [illegible] in such [illegible].

As [illegible] constitutions [illegible] the [illegible] in consequence of the [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] be no doubt of the propriety of [illegible] [illegible] the consequences [illegible] [illegible] as well as [illegible], [illegible] besides some effects [illegible] from it that would seem to pro-

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with the operation of the mercurial salt which is a [illegible]. It gives a regular and gentle perspiration at the same time that it invigorates the digestive functions, both of which are indications always to be desired whenever mercurial treatment of any form is necessary. Yet we should not be concealed that the [illegible] of iron, like all other metallic salts, is liable to decomposition when in a state of solution. And as there is hardly any other substance, the metals not even excepted, that is more readily affected by the influence of the [illegible] [illegible] than this [illegible] combination. It is probable also that chemical action between the active principles of the vegetable matters and the oxygen of the preparation will be promoted by the state of solution in which they are [illegible]. At all events I am satisfied that the [illegible] becomes inert or nearly so in a long time. I prefer in those cases in which the

[illegible] in a deposition of [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]
[illegible] in combination with the [illegible]
[illegible] [illegible], therefore, to [illegible]
whenever from any circumstance it might
thought not to combine the gold with a suit-
table deoxidizer, but any small portion
should be deposited at a time, which
would be [illegible] to mix the two solids in
proper proportions [illegible] at
any one period. By precipitation in this
way, a different length of time [illegible] would depend
upon either the influence of light, or the [illegible]
difference between the two substances [illegible]
any important change in the composition of
the remedy.

5.th Concerning the particular action of gold
upon the system, I must confess that I [illegible]

found it appeared to favour an opinion. It produces immediate effects, as far as such can be recognized by the state of the pulse and the feelings of the patient. It neither acts upon the bowels or intestines, nor to produce vomiting is required. Still after this is continued a few days it produces an eruption under the arm pits, back the ~~[illegible]~~ neck &c. The skin is incorporated over the whole surface, as is manifested by the healthy glow and perspiration which are soon induced. The secretions both natural and irregular are excited; and the process of nutrition is also, in most cases, evidently invigorated. The digestive powers are always increased; and the processes of assimilation would appear to be correspondingly assisted. From a reference to several of the cases which I have described it will be seen that the most emaciated and debilitated patients are speedily supplied with strength and substance by the combined influence of our remedy and a farinaceous diet.

By Jno. Banks
216 Market Street

From these general [illegible] which [illegible] to [illegible] in the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

most to chief; exerted upon the capillary
vessels, the functions of which it mo-
dificates strangely either by its own peculiar
influence, the venous congestion in-
duced, or the explosive vertigo, by the disp-
-osition of a tonic, more clinical than pure.
[illegible] is specific in its nature, and it is
therefore associated [illegible] with
[illegible] diseased states of nature. Yet they
may be induced both — either if the nervous
[illegible] or [illegible] low, or if the univer-
-sally diversified aspects of acute nervous
affections.

[illegible] the effect of poisons, [illegible]
[illegible] when does the mind
[illegible], it is [illegible] apparent
[illegible] selection of cases. Some of the
primary symptoms appear to have been so
[illegible] that it may be conducive to interest
to detail them; and this will be more particu-
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[illegible]
[illegible]

Lastly the case when we meet that constitutional treatment is not absolutely requisite for the eradication of ulcerous chancres or buboes. I will conclude merely, therefore, with a caution in regard to them, that I have repeatedly witnessed speedy perfect cures under the use of the remedy under consideration. In cases of old chancres & indolent buboes, particularly I have conceived that gold will always prove a most valuable medicine. To illustrate this I will describe one case in which I was much interested.

Case 1st. A young man about 17 years old a son of Mr. Stephen M. (Constable) had been afflicted with a chancre for several weeks, which had created a large induration around its base, & had been for some time accompanied with a bubo of considerable size in his left groin. He first took Dr. Blue Pill three times daily, which salivated him severely without

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tions followed by any advantage. The bubo was checked by purges, low diet and rest; but it did not afterwards subside under the use of a large vesicatory. He was then put under the influence of the pills of muriate of gold and scoria. In 3 days afterwards a manifest improvement had taken place, & in less than a fortnight both the indurated chancre and the tumour in the groin had entirely disappeared. No symptoms of a constitutional affection have yet been manifested. It is now about 9 months since he was under treatment.

In the secondary forms of the venereal disease, both of the first & second order effects, gold is a still more valuable remedy. It fills up the ulcers of the fauces, removes the discolourations of the skin, and disperses the tumours of the bones & periosteum more rapidly, according to what few observations I have

for an opportunity of making, than even mer-
curius itself. At least it is calculated to relieve
those cases in which the previous exhibition
of mercurials have failed of success.

Case 2d. A woman about 25 years old a mer
Duller in north 8th street, had large & deep
ulcerated excavations in her tonsils; several
ulcerated spots upon the skin of her neck
& arms; and a prominent firm tumour upon
each palatine, of about the size of half a
pullets egg. She first took the mercurial pill
with iodide for a few days with considerable
effect. But on changing the formula to a
division with the compound decoction of
sarsaparilla the symptoms became stati-
onary. This circumstance I attributed to a
decomposition & precipitation of the iodide
of gold from the solution. She was then
once more led to resume the pills of mercurial
& gold & iodide in lieu the dose of the

former was increased to 1/4th of a grain in each pill. In about 15 days every symptom disappeared under this treatment, and she has not applied for ~~treatment~~ advice since. She was dismissed from treatment in September last.

Case 3d. Mr. Butler husband of the last had large ulcers on both legs of an irritable character with a purple copper coloured skin around, & two large ulcers one on the middle of the right thigh & the other on the opposite thigh. In less than a month he was completely restored to health by the use of the same applied as in the above cases.

Case 4th Bruce a coloured barber had large excavated ulcers in his tonsils which had not appeared until nearly 3 years after the use of mercury deceptively administered for the venereal disease. In a few days time the ulcers were filled up & cicatrization was progressing under the same remedy.

[illegible]

[illegible] difficult & [illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] fever, [illegible] & [illegible]. The [illegible]

[illegible] to the [illegible]

of the patient [illegible] to their [illegible] process

[illegible] exposed, and finally stowed in

a [illegible] state by a [illegible] of [illegible]

[illegible] crystals, if a well [illegible] water, [illegible]

[illegible] of [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] He had
been [illegible] the Mineral [illegible] of
[illegible] by [illegible] which [illegible]
[illegible] had been [illegible] by [illegible]
[illegible] this matter [illegible] after his [illegible]
[illegible] from the [illegible] which [illegible]
[illegible] He had taken the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Ella [illegible]
[illegible]
Under these circumstances he [illegible]
the use of the [illegible] of gold [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] for about [illegible] weeks, after
[illegible] the [illegible]
[illegible] when the [illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible] Rhubarb

[illegible] circumstances [illegible] required it to be [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible] to the ex-[illegible] of [illegible], the remedy [illegible] [illegible] that some cases may be complicated with too much [illegible] [illegible], or [illegible] & [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].

But in ordinary cases the remedy which I recommend may be commenced at once & be depended on as the best corrective of that derangement in the general system upon which the local symptoms & ulcerations are supposed to depend.

Case 6th. Geo. Hill a young man 17 years old apprenticed to the [illegible] printing business applied to me with an enormous enlargement of the Lymphatic glands of the throat. They formed an immense tumour which extended underneath the jaw from one mastoid process to the other. Two abscesses had already ruptured and discharged scrofulous

[illegible] The [illegible] after [illegible]
[illegible], and this opposite was unimpaired. I
had him under the use of the gold & Cincha
falls, which [illegible] down thro' the [illegible],
[illegible] within the [illegible] of about 20 ft, so
that the several [illegible] clouds, which
were matted together into the [illegible] mass,
became insulated from each other. The
clouds became very thin, but they
[illegible] not entirely disappeared. I have
discontinued the use of the [illegible], after
[illegible] it about 2 months.

[illegible]

Since her puberty [illegible] to 1819 [illegible] [illegible] as the [illegible] of an indo[illegible] [illegible] in her left mamma. As there was almost no [illegible] & [illegible] the [illegible] pain, I supposed this to be [illegible] of the same disposition with the scrofulous glands— She was put upon a farinaceous & milk diet and she began to take the pills of Cicuta in October last. In three weeks the glands in her throat [illegible] [illegible] which disappeared, and the tumour in her mamma had greatly subsided. She [illegible] continues [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] sufficient [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] remaining.

Case 1st. A [illegible] [illegible] the Dr. [illegible] [illegible] scrofulous [illegible] in his neck [illegible]

discharged an offensive matter & shewed no disposition to healthy suppuration or granulation. He took the gold & cicuta about 3 weeks & was perfectly relieved. Indeed the remedy induced a healthy discharge of pus in less than 4 days, which was followed by a rapid growth of granulations.

I might adduce several more cases from the practice of my medical acquaintances; but these must be sufficient to illustrate the position which I have assumed in regard to the use of gold in scrofula. I will conclude with a brief notice of an interesting case of an obstinate cutaneous disease in which the same remedy proved effectual.

Case 9th. Miss B. was covered in January last with large herpetic blotches, of a blood red colour which occasionally desquamated, disappeared, and again returned. Her case was pronounced by Dr. Ball of New York (where she

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was on a visit when the disease first appeared to be a genuine leprosy. She took the gold & sarsaparilla about 4 weeks and was com-
-pletely cured.